

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY UPDATE
November 21 - 26, 2014

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1. Promoting Space Security and Sustainability (11-25-2014)

Remarks by Frank A. Rose, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Arms Control, Verification and Compliance, International Institute for Strategic Studies, London, United Kingdom, November 21, 2014

Introduction

Thank you for that kind introduction, and thanks to the International Institute of Strategic Studies for having me back here today to discuss an issue of vital interest: ensuring the long-term sustainability, stability, safety, and security of the space environment.

For decades, we have been inspired by humanity's space endeavors and reaped the benefits of the use and exploration of outer space. While some take these benefits for granted, let me be clear: space assets are essential to U.S. national security as well as the security of our allies and coalition partners. This shared interest is recognized here in the United Kingdom, where HM Government's National Space Security Policy establishes the promotion of a safe and more secure space environment as a key objective.

Outer space is a domain that no nation owns but on which all rely. Yet today, space is becoming increasingly congested from orbital debris, including man-made threats—such as the testing of

debris-generating anti-satellite, or ASAT, systems. Left unchecked, such debris could result in access to some space services being seriously degraded or even lost – creating a direct threat to international security.

The world's growing dependence on the globe-spanning and interconnected nature of space capabilities mean that it is more important than ever for all citizens to understand that irresponsible acts in space by one entity can have damaging consequences for all. Therefore, all nations must work together to adopt a responsible approach to activities in outer space in order to preserve this domain for future generations.

Today, I would like to cover two aspects in regard to ensuring the security and sustainability of the space environment: first, the risks and dangers to space systems from debris generating ASAT tests; second, the role of international diplomatic initiatives in protecting the long-term sustainability and security of the space environment.

Threats to Outer Space

Let me start with the risks and dangers. On July 23 of this year, the Chinese Government conducted a non-destructive test of a missile designed to destroy satellites in low Earth orbit. Despite China's claims that this was a missile defense test, let me assure you the United States has high confidence in its assessment, that the event was indeed an ASAT test.

And China is not the only one pursuing these capabilities. As Director of National Intelligence James Clapper noted in his January 2014 congressional testimony, "Russian leaders openly maintain that the Russian armed forces have antisatellite weapons and conduct antisatellite research."

The United States believes that these threats, which include the continued development and testing of destructive anti-satellite systems, are both destabilizing and threaten the long-term security and sustainability of the outer space environment. Moreover, these threats affect all who benefit from outer space including the scientific, commercial, and civil space communities. Indeed, thousands of pieces of debris about 10 cm and larger from the 2007 Chinese ASAT test continue to endanger space systems from all nations, including China.

On the security side, ASAT weapons directly threaten satellites and the strategic and tactical information and services those satellites provide, and their use could be escalatory in a crisis or conflict. They also pose a direct threat to key assets used in arms control verification monitoring, command and control and communication, and warning and attack assessment. A debris generating test or attack may only be minutes in duration, but the consequences can last decades and indiscriminately threaten the space-based assets of all space-faring nations, and the information from space upon which all nations depend.

On the civil space side, between 2007 and 2014, NASA has had to perform eight debris avoidance maneuvers of its robotic spacecraft due to possible collisions with debris from the 2007 Chinese ASAT test. Two of these spacecraft maneuvers were conducted in 2014. Just as these systems threaten our national security space systems, they can threaten the civil satellites that are so essential to our everyday lives.

Multilateral Efforts toward a Stable and Sustainable Space Environment

Given these threats and the current era where many States and nongovernmental organizations are harnessing the benefits of outer space, we have no choice but to work with our allies and partners

around the world to ensure the long-term sustainability of the space environment. We also must speak clearly and publicly about what behavior the international community should find both acceptable and unacceptable. Over the past few years, the United States has worked to support a number of multilateral initiatives that seek to establish consensus guidelines for space activities that are both in the national security interests of the United States, and will further the long-term stability and sustainability of the space environment.

Just last year, I served as the United States expert on a United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) study of outer space transparency and confidence-building measures (TCBMs). The consensus GGE report which was published in July of last year endorsed voluntary, non-legally binding TCBMs to strengthen sustainability and security in space. The GGE benefited immensely from the contributions of Professor Richard Crowther of the U.K. Space Agency, who worked with several other experts to define a rigorous set of criteria for considering space TCBMs. This work contributed to the GGE's recommendation that States implement measures to promote coordination to enhance safety and predictability in the uses of outer space. The report also endorsed "efforts to pursue political commitments, for example, a multilateral code of conduct, to encourage responsible actions in, and the peaceful use of, outer space."

This International Code of Conduct for Outer Space Activities is another important multilateral initiative. Among the Code's commitments for signatories is to refrain from any action which brings about, directly or indirectly, damage, or destruction, of space objects and to minimize, to the greatest extent possible, the creation of space debris, in particular, the creation of long-lived space debris. The Code could also help solidify safe operational practices, reduce the chance of collisions or other harmful interference with nations' activities, contribute to our awareness of the space environment through notifications, and strengthen stability in space by helping establish norms for responsible behavior in space.

Lastly, the UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) is also doing important work to move forward in the development of new international long-term sustainability guidelines. U.S. and U.K. experts from the private sector as well the federal government have played a leading role in the COPUOS Working Group on the Long-term Sustainability of Outer Space Activities. These efforts contribute to the development of multilateral and bilateral space TCBMs. Exchanges of information between space operations centers also can serve as useful confidence building measures.

Multilateral diplomatic initiatives contribute greatly to defining acceptable and unacceptable behaviors in space and therefore are key components of the United States deterrence strategy. In addition, if we are serious about maintaining the space environment for future generations, we must support such measures that promote positive activities in space and further the creation of norms which dissuade countries from taking destabilizing actions such as the testing of debris-generating ASAT systems. By working with the international community, we can, and must, advance the long-term sustainability and security of the outer space environment for all nations and future generations

With that, I would like to thank you for your time and stop here in order to leave time for questions.

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2. President Announces Hagel's Resignation as Defense Secretary (11-24-2014)

By Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jake Richmond
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24, 2014 – Praising Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's "class and integrity," President Barack Obama announced today at the White House that Hagel will leave his post.

The president said Hagel has agreed to remain in his position until a successor is nominated and confirmed. For that, Obama said, he is "extraordinarily lucky and grateful."

"When I asked Chuck to serve as secretary of defense, we were entering a significant period of transition," Obama said. That transition included the drawdown in Afghanistan, the need to prepare our forces for future missions, and tough fiscal choices to keep our military strong and ready.

Last month, Obama said, Hagel came to him to discuss the final quarter of his presidency. It was then that Hagel initially determined that, having guided the department through this transition, it was an appropriate time for him to complete his service, the president added.

A Steady Hand

"Over nearly two years, Chuck has been an exemplary defense secretary," Obama said, crediting Hagel for providing a steady hand during the modernization of the administration's strategy and budget to meet long-term threats, while still responding to immediate challenges such as ISIL and the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

Hagel said he is "immensely proud" of what the department has accomplished during his tenure.

"I believe we have set not only this department, the Department of Defense, but the nation on a stronger course toward security, stability and prosperity," the secretary said.

Privileged to Serve

Hagel called his opportunity to serve as defense secretary the "greatest privilege of my life."

In the meantime, Hagel said, "I will stay on this job and work just as hard as I have over the last couple of years, every day, every moment, until my successor is confirmed by the United States Senate."

The United States of America can proudly claim the strongest military the world has ever known, Obama said.

"That's the result of the investments made over many decades, the blood and treasure and sacrifices of many generations," he said. "It's the result of the character and wisdom of those who lead them as well, including a young Army sergeant in Vietnam who rose to serve as our nation's 24th secretary of defense."

Biographies:

[Chuck Hagel](#)

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[Hagel: 'I Did Not Take This Decision Lightly'](#)

[Dempsey Praises Hagel's 'Rare, Welcome' Insight](#)

[3. Eastern Europe Troop Rotations Could Continue, Commander Says \(11-24-2014\)](#)

By David Vergun
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24, 2014 – Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division and later replacement units will rotate to locations in Eastern Europe through the end of next year as part of Operation Atlantic Resolve, and those rotations could continue after next year and for the foreseeable future, the commander of U.S. Army Europe said today.

Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges spoke to reporters at the Pentagon from Vilnius, Lithuania, via a video teleconference.

The rotations -- part of the Army's regionally aligned forces concept -- are taking place in Eastern Europe to provide "important assurance" to NATO allies of U.S. commitment and "deterrence to Russian aggression," Hodges said. Also, the presence of U.S. forces in Eastern Europe will ensure a more rapid response, should aggression occur, he added.

Forward-stationed Forces With Rapid-response Capability

Because the United States no longer has a massive military presence as it had in West Germany during the Cold War, the current strategy is to provide forward-stationed forces with a rapid-response capability. The strategy also relies on training with local NATO forces, he said.

The other part of the strategy is to pre-position equipment in Eastern Europe, Hodges said. While there are logistical assets already in Germany, the idea is eventually to move a heavy brigade combat team with its tanks and Bradley vehicles to an area further east, such as Poland, Romania, or one of the Baltic countries, he added. The Defense and State departments, as well as NATO countries, are now discussing the location, he said.

Although "the footprint in Europe is much smaller than it used to be, we can still provide the needed capabilities," the general said, adding that he's hopeful that overseas contingency operations money will be approved for all of the necessary expenses that come with ramping up Operation Atlantic Resolve.

Two Reasons for Optimism

The reason for optimism is two-fold, he said. First, the U.S. has committed to a strategy to defend Eastern Europe's NATO countries through the European Reassurance Initiative.

Second, NATO itself is now on board. "I've never seen the NATO alliance more unified than coming out of the September summit in Wales," he said, explaining that the heads of NATO nations "recognized Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea and its illegal activities inside eastern Ukraine."

Hodges said he believes that with NATO resolve, Russia would not dare to engage in a conventional attack. Rather, he said, they would try to stir up ethnic Russians, as they did in Ukraine, or intimidate nations, as they tried to do in Lithuania.

At the end of the Cold War, he explained, when Lithuania gained its independence, some 70,000 Lithuanian soldiers who were drafted by the Russian government didn't report for duty because their country had become a sovereign nation. Russia's government issued extradition orders, declaring those soldiers to be fugitives or draft dodgers, the general said.

That NATO agreed to sanctions against Russia and declared its resolve against its aggression is all the more impressive, he said, because not all of the 28 NATO allies agree that Russia is the No. 1 threat the alliance faces. For example, some southern NATO countries see illegal immigration from North Africa as the bigger threat, and Turkey looks across its border at Iraq and Syria and sees the trouble there as its chief concern.

‘Strong Europe’ Slogan

That the U.S. Army is committed to standing alongside its European allies is reflected in a new slogan: "Strong Europe," which is a take on the "Army Strong" slogan, Hodges said. The strength of the Army is its dedicated soldiers and their leaders, he said, many of whom will be spending Thanksgiving in Eastern Europe.

"I'm extremely proud of them," he said, noting that he had spent time earlier in the day with soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division in Lithuania. Later this week, he said, he'll visit soldiers in Estonia and Poland.

Hodges said the United States and NATO will not be intimidated by Russian aggression, and that any aggression will be met with a firm and rapid response. He noted that a few months ago, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, "We can be in Vilnius in two days."

"Well, I got here in three hours, coming from Wiesbaden," Germany, Hodges said.

Biographies:

[Army Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges](#)

Related Sites:

[U.S. Army Europe](#)

[Special Report: Operation Atlantic Resolve](#)

4. Work Explains Strategy Behind Innovation Initiative (11-24-2014)

By Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jake Richmond
DoD News, Defense Media Activity

WASHINGTON, Nov. 24, 2014 – The Defense Innovation Initiative will help to develop more innovative leaders and identify new operational concepts, but sequestration is still "a problem we need to address as a nation," Deputy Defense Secretary Bob Work said yesterday.

Work discussed the new initiative on Gannett's "DefenseNews With Vago Muradian" program.

Echoing Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's announcement last week, Work compared elements of the innovation initiative with the department's first two "offset" strategies, which began in the 1970s.

"The United States has never, since the end of World War II, tried to match our potential adversaries tank for tank, airplane for airplane, person for person, missile for missile," Work said. "We have always sought an offset."

Sequestration Limits DoD's Freedom of Action

Generally, that strategy has been based around people, technology, and then-new operational concepts, Work said.

"Regardless of the budget would be, we would want to do this," he added. "But under sequestration, our freedom of action is really going to be limited."

The threat of sequestration, with its nearly \$1 trillion in potential spending cuts, was a central topic in Work's interview with Muradian.

"The president's been very clear," Work said. "The national security of the United States is not well served by sequestration. We just have to keep pointing out that if you want a budget-driven strategy, go to sequestration. If you want us to have a strategy that's good for the nation, then go more with the president's budget."

In the memorandum that established the initiative, Hagel noted that "downward fiscal pressure will constrain the way we have traditionally addressed threats." That pressure will demand a more innovative and agile defense enterprise, the memo said.

Most Important Aspect is People

Work noted that the initiative has five key aspects, but emphasized that the initiative isn't all about technology. "The first and most important thing is about our people," he said.

Work discussed the other elements of the departmentwide effort, including the reinvigoration of wargaming, the creation of a long-range research and development program and an increased focus on making DoD business practices more innovative. "If you have more budget top room, you can make more bets and see which one plays out," he said. "At sequestration, you just simply can't."

The deputy secretary made it clear that a budget-driven strategy is not ideal, but he said it's what will happen if sequestration continues. Unless Congress acts to change the law, sequestration spending cuts resume in fiscal year 2015, which begins Oct. 1.

The innovation initiative is timely, despite budget uncertainty, Work said. He referenced the example of the department's second offset strategy, which remained in place through several presidential administrations and provided an operational advantage for four decades.

"What we can do in the next two years of this administration is kind of set the course," Work said. "Once you get the strategy right, they generally go across administrations and over time."

Biographies:

[Bob Work](#)

Related Sites:

[Defense Innovation Initiative Memorandum](#)
[Special Report: Sequestration](#)

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[Hagel Announces New Defense Innovation, Reform Efforts](#)

5. Biden in Istanbul on European Energy Security (11-22-2014)

Remarks by Vice President Joe Biden on European Energy Security to the Atlantic Council Energy and Economic Summit, Grand Tarabya Hotel, Istanbul, Turkey

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Well, ladies and gentlemen, it's an honor to be here. I would tell you, I say to my good friend, Jim Jones, former National Security Advisor, General. General, I have a new attitude toward birthdays. And there was a famous American athlete, a professional baseball player who did not get to play in what we call the Major Leagues until he was 45 years old. His name was Satchel Paige. He was a pitcher. And on his 47th birthday, the oldest pitcher pitching, he won a game. And the press went into the locker room after the game and said -- they referred to him as Satch. They said, Satch, how does it feel being 47 and pitching in the big leagues and winning a game?

He looked at them. He said, fellahs, that's not how I look at it. He said, let me tell you how I view age. I think of it this way: How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are? (Laughter.) I am 42 years old. (Laughter.) And that's the way I think of it, and I'm standing by it, Jim.

It's great to be speaking once again before the Atlantic Council. I'm pleased to be here in Istanbul, a perfect place to talk about the issues before us, and with my good friend and he is my good friend. I was kidding the Prime Minister last time we -- we've known each other a long time, and he used to be the Foreign Minister. And now he's the Prime Minister. And I'm still the Vice President. (Laughter.) But he still likes me, and I still like him. (Laughter.)

But this is the perfect place to have this discussion sitting at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, a vital part of the Mediterranean and the Middle East. And I've just come from Ukraine, where the United States and our European partners are working shoulder-to-shoulder within the country's democratically elected leadership to support Ukraine's democratic development and its European aspirations.

Quite frankly, Russian aggression in Ukraine and its illegal occupation of Crimea remind us that we still have a good deal more work to do to guarantee the strategic vision of a Europe whole, free and at peace.

As I said when I spoke at a similar gathering at the Atlantic Alliance sic in Washington this May, this vision of Europe whole and free and at peace is the right vision. But we need to redouble our efforts to achieve it. At Wales, NATO renewed its determination to protect and defend every inch of NATO territory; to increase defense spending to 2 percent for all our NATO allies; to strengthen NATO's readiness to deploy quickly whenever and wherever they are needed.

But as the story of Ukraine shows, there are multiple dimensions to European security. And the Prime Minister and I spoke of many of them last night for some time, as he was kind enough to host

me for dinner. Obviously, one of the dimensions is hard military power. But we're also facing new weapons being used, and used by Russia and others.

First is a new development, the use of corruption and oligarchy-kleptocracy as a tool of international coercion. Second, is use of energy as a weapon, undermining the security of nations. Global energy security is a vital part of America's national security. In East Asia, President Obama and President Xi just signed a historic agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the United States has launched an initiative to double the access to electric power. We call it Power Africa. And in the Caribbean and Central America, our administration has launched a new, regional energy strategy to help boost sustainable economic growth and diversity of energy sources.

But here in Europe, energy is -- energy security is an especially vital regional security interest because of Russia's track record in using the supply of energy as a foreign policy weapon against its neighbors in violation of basic commercial and international norms.

This is a huge strategic problem for many countries that rely on Russia for their energy supply. But the truth is this is also a unique moment for Europe. Europe has a real opportunity to change their circumstances. We believe -- the President and I -- we believe that energy security is the next chapter in the European project of integration and market expansion that began decades ago with European coal and steel.

As a matter of economic and national security, that means we need governments and the European Commission to work hand-in-hand with the private sector to ensure diversity in sources of fuel from hydrocarbons to renewables; diversity in countries of origin, from North Africa, to the Eastern Mediterranean, to the United States; more interconnections, that supply routes that are more reliable -- everything from new pipelines to LNG facilities.

We have been aware that this single source of energy has been a problem for a long time in Europe. But now, now, now is the time to act. What's happening in Ukraine only underscores the urgency. And my message here is not that Europe can or should do away with Russian imports. That's not the case at all. I have no doubt that Russia will and should remain a major source of energy supplies for Europe and the world.

This is about energy security. To achieve it, Europe needs to ensure it diversifies its resources, its routes and its suppliers.

Russia can and should be a player, but it has to play by the rules of the game. It shouldn't be able to use its energy policy to play with the game.

True energy security in Europe is going to require some tough decisions, but there's been progress. As you know, Europe experienced three energy crises in '06, '09 and again in 2014 when Russia shut off its supplies to Ukraine and other parts of Europe. Countries have stepped up to the plate; and with each successive crisis, we've made some progress.

For example, in 2008 sic, when gas from Ukraine was cut off, Slovaks were shocked to find themselves suffering in the cold winter for two weeks, something they thought would never happen because their country lay on the route to Western Europe.

But then Slovakia adapted, and quickly built interconnections with its neighbors, enabling it to receive supplies from the Czech Republic within 24 hours in case of another such emergency. This time, this winter, there wasn't even a threat. That's progress.

At the same time, the U.S. and EU launched an aggressive energy diplomacy shortly after the 2009 cutoff to ensure that reserve flows -- reverse flows of gas could even be available to Ukraine from its neighbors during future crises.

The fruits of that diplomacy paid off this year, when Russia cut off the gas to Ukraine in June, and Poland, Hungary, and Slovakia quickly moved in to help.

Ukraine risked another crisis this winter. But through skillful European mediation and active U.S. engagement, Russia and Ukraine reached an agreement that will keep the gas flowing this winter. That, too, is progress.

We saw other key milestones a few weeks ago when Lithuania inaugurated its liquefied natural gas terminal, appropriately named "The Independence." I met with the Lithuanian Prime Minister in Washington in October, shortly before the launch.

In combination of this new facility, an emerging LNG deal between Finland and Estonia; and action by Baltic states to interconnect their electricity and gas supplies, both to one another and to Europe and Scandinavia as a whole; together, these things have the potential to make the Baltic "energy island" a thing of the past.

The region that was once almost entirely dependent on Russia has seized the initiative and now is on track to achieve greater energy security and not incidentally greater freedom. All this marks a genuine advancement in our agenda. But we can't rest on our laurels. You all know better than I we have to go much further. We have to finish the job.

That's one of the reasons why I recently went to Cyprus -- the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit Cyprus in five decades -- because I wanted to encourage the Cypriots to develop their energy resources in cooperation with all -- all -- their neighbors; and to make clear that everyone benefits if the entire Eastern Mediterranean can work together to become a hub for natural gas markets.

Promoting energy security was also a major reason why I recently visited Romania. Romania can be a linchpin in delivering gas to its neighbors and even become an energy exporter for its neighbors across Central and Eastern Europe. Croatia is another country with potential to become a regional energy hub if it makes smart investments now, with EU support, and works collaboratively with its neighbors.

When President Obama visited Poland in June and Estonia in September, he called on leaders across Europe to do far more to expand and diversify their energy supplies and to work closely with one another.

We are hopeful the new E.U. Commission's focus on Energy Union will be a step in that direction. So what do we need to do now? What actually needs to happen?

Well, in our view, to start, we need to identify critical infrastructure projects, increase the interconnectedness between European countries -- from pipelines, to electric grids, to integration of renewables, to energy efficiency standards.

Last year the EU created a mechanism to identify and help fund the most important energy infrastructure projects. But more needs to be done to make the hard decisions to prioritize projects, to focus support, to integrate Central and Eastern Europe.

I know a major obstacle is building the infrastructure. Some of the projects I just mentioned -- the LNG terminal in Lithuania, for example; the reverse-flow interconnectors -- they require long term certainty to be commercially viable on their own.

And I know that current economic conditions make it hard for governments to support infrastructure that, strictly speaking, may not be required to meet the narrow definition of energy demand. But that's what leadership is about. That's what this moment is about -- having the vision and making the choices today to ensure a better and more secure European future.

Leadership also requires nations to work together on common policy and investment strategy. If each state operates on its own, all will wind up in a weaker position. In this regard, I was glad to see the EU carry out region-wide energy stress tests, underscoring the importance of coordination.

Another part of improving energy security is to make way for the fuel mix of the future. What the EU has done to integrate renewable energy into its fuel mix is remarkable. The ambitious targets that the EU has set for renewables, for energy efficiency, to cut emissions set a strong example for the rest of the world. And we in the United States are partners in this effort, working toward the same goals.

We also need to help develop new opportunities to bring new sources of supply to Europe. Years ago when I was Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations in the United States Senate, I worked with then President Clinton to launch what was called the Contract of the Century. This was the BTC Pipeline, which would bring Caspian oil to Europe and to the global markets. If you'll remember -- not any of you women are old enough to remember this -- but if you remember, most believed it would never happen. But with U.S. leadership and the commitments of Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey, it became a reality. Twenty years later, the BTC's counterpart, the Southern Corridor is close to becoming a reality and should -- must -- become a reality.

With U.S. support, Turkish leadership, Azeri leadership, this ambitious project is traversing Azerbaijan through Georgia, Turkey, Greece, Albania and Italy -- will bring gas for the first time from the Caspian to Europe, a game changer for energy security in Europe.

Today, the energy potential of the Eastern Mediterranean can also play significant strategic and economic dividends for the region itself and Europe as a whole.

For the region, it holds the promise of enhancing stability and prosperity by bringing together Israel, Turkey, Egypt, Greece, Cyprus and hopefully one day Lebanon. It also has the potential to bring new supplies into Europe, to increase its energy security by diversifying energy resources.

This was a big part my message when I was in Cyprus in May, that energy can and should serve as the tool for cooperation, for stability, for security and prosperity. And I've asked the State Department's Energy Envoy, Amos Hochstein, to continue this work. We have a chance to connect the promising developments in the Mediterranean with resources as distant as Azerbaijan and Iraq to ensure greater energy security and national security for all involved.

If we get it right, and it will be difficult, but if we get it right, all will benefit from greater stability, economic growth, jobs and prosperity; from functioning marketplaces for energy -- European energy -- with all the strategic benefits that that brings.

This is also a great moment for energy in Turkey, which has already been playing a role as the energy hub for oil and is poised to play a much bigger role in gas.

That's why I was encouraged to see the recent interim agreement between Baghdad and Erbil on managing exports and revenue sharing. And we continue to support the development of a strategic pipeline from Basra to Jehan. As the regional global energy picture evolves, Turkey's strategic location is a major, major asset. Turkey will host the G20 next year. And we welcome Turkey's leadership in carrying forward the important work of the G20 on energy efficiency and climate change.

Turkey's domestic market potential is also significant. In fact, Turkey is only one of Europe -- is one of Europe's largest gas markets. It's the only one expected to grow in the next decade. So the United States stands ready to help Turkey realize its energy potential in any way they think we can be helpful.

This will require the development of competitive gas markets to attract private investment, improve infrastructure and strengthen Turkey's ability to become a gas hub. And as Secretary Moniz, who was here last week, told our Turkish counterparts, we're already working on renewables together, Turkey and the United States.

As leaders in the formulation of energy policy around the world, it's within your power to help make energy insecurity in Europe and many other places a thing of the past. That should be one of our goals. We have to keep our eye on the horizon, keep moving past old ways of doing business, keep making energy a tool of cooperation, not a tool of division.

If we can do that, we can achieve a Europe not just whole, free and at peace, but prosperous and secure, a leader in shaping the world's energy future. That would be good for all of us. So let's make it happen. Now is the time to act. Let's not wait any longer.

Thank you for your hospitality and thank you for listening. (Applause.)

6. Iran's Nuclear Program (11-22-2014)

Remarks by John Kerry, Secretary of State with Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier before their Meeting, Vienna, Austria

SECRETARY KERRY: So let me just say to everybody, first of all, I'm delighted to welcome Foreign Minister Steinmeier, appreciate enormously his cooperation and help -- Germany's help -- on so many things. And most recently, with respect to Ebola, we've been doing a great deal, and we're grateful for your help on that.

We've been, obviously, having difficult talks here -- complicated topic. We're working hard. We hope we're making careful progress, but we have big gaps. We still have some serious gaps which we're working to close. The good thing is the P5+1 are united and working in concert, and we're simply going to not say anything substantive about the discussions while they're going on. But a lot of a serious work is going on by a lot of people. We're grateful for the cooperation.

FOREIGN MINISTER STEINMEIER: Thank you. John, I'm really grateful for close cooperation in a world of crises. We are working very close together on Ukraine, on Middle East, on Iraq, on Syria, and in the last weeks and months, in our common fight against Ebola.

Now, in our ten years negotiations about Iran, this is a weekend of -- these are the hours of truth. And we have to check now if Iran is really ready to move in the right direction. The only criterion

for a deal about the nuclear issue – about the nuclear dossier – it remain question if Iran is really ready to renounce every research development working on – in the direction of getting nuclear weapon. That is the only criterion.

SECRETARY KERRY: Good, sir.

FOREIGN MINISTER STEINMEIER: Thank you.

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7. White House Facts on Additional Humanitarian Aid for Syria Crisis (11-22-2014)

Vice President Joe Biden Announces \$135 Million in Additional Humanitarian Assistance for Syria Crisis

Vice President Joe Biden announced today in Istanbul, Turkey that the United States is providing nearly \$135 million in additional humanitarian assistance to help feed civilians affected by the ongoing conflict in Syria. With this announcement, the United States has provided more than \$3 billion in critical humanitarian aid since the start of the crisis, including \$222 million for international humanitarian organizations working with the Government of Turkey as they continue to help those affected by the war in Syria.

The new funding will help feed vulnerable people inside Syria; Syrian refugees in Turkey; and Syrian refugees in other neighboring countries. Turkey has generously committed substantial portions of its national resources to hosting an estimated 1.6 million refugees from Syria. The world has watched with great concern as more than 190,000 Syrians from Kobani fled to Turkey in recent weeks. The United States is grateful that Turkey kept its doors open to people fleeing the brutality of ISIL as well as the appalling atrocities committed by the Assad regime.

Of this total new U.S. funding for the Syria crisis, more than \$132.8 million will go to the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) and other partners to respond to ongoing emergency food needs inside Syria and in countries hosting Syrian refugees, including Turkey. This includes \$63 million for WFP's operations inside Syria and \$70 million for WFP's operations benefiting Syrian refugees in neighboring countries. WFP's operations, to which the United States remains the largest donor, feed millions of Syrians every month, including through household food ration deliveries inside Syria and distributions of food vouchers to refugees in neighboring countries.

Nearly \$11 million of the new assistance will support the WFP in Turkey. WFP redirected hundreds of tons of food to the Suruc border district in response to the sudden recent influx of refugees and continues to work in close coordination with the Turkish government to feed hundreds of thousands of refugees daily. The new funding also includes nearly \$2 million for the Turkish Red Crescent, through the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies appeal for Turkey, to provide hot meals for Syrian refugees from Kobani. The work of WFP and the Turkish Red Crescent are critical to meeting the emergency food needs of Syrians seeking shelter in Turkish camps and urban settings.

Inside Syria, U.S. government partners keep people alive by reaching millions of people per month—often at great risk to partner staff—with household food rations and flour for bakeries. In neighboring countries, including Turkey, WFP’s food voucher program bolsters local economies stressed by the influx of Syrian refugees.

U.S. assistance to the Syrian people also includes a commitment to resettle thousands of the most vulnerable to the United States. As the largest resettlement country in the world, and one deeply committed to assisting the Syrian people, the United States will be a major participant in the international effort to resettle Syrian refugees from Turkey and elsewhere. The U.S. refugee resettlement program in Turkey is one of our largest programs worldwide. We intend to admit close to 7,000 refugees from Turkey in the coming year, including Iraqis, Iranians, and a growing number of Syrians.

The United States remains committed to supporting relief agencies working to meet the needs of Syrians throughout the region.

For more detailed information on the U.S. government’s response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria, please visit: www.usaid.gov/crisis/syria.

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8. U.S. Envoy Power at U.N. Security Council Session on Ebola (11-21-2014)

Remarks by Samantha Power, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations at the United Nations Security Council Session on Ebola

Thank you, Madam President. And Madam President, Foreign Minister Bishop – thank you for being here to chair this crucial session. Thank you, Special Envoy Nabarro and Special Representative Banbury, for your briefings. Mr. Mauget, we are grateful for your remarks, but even more for your service, and for the service of all of the doctors, nurses, burial team members, and others on the front lines of this effort.

We also thank the representatives of Guinea, Liberia, Mali, and Sierra Leone, for being here today, and for the valiant efforts of their people and their governments to stand up to this deadly virus. We stand with you.

I’d like to take a moment to recognize the passing of Marcel Rudasingwa, UNMEER’s Ebola Crisis Manager in Guinea. When I met Marcel in Conakry last month, and he had just recently arrived, but he brought great energy to a really tough assignment. And his unexpected death this week by a heart attack is an enormous loss for his family, of course, and for the UN family.

Two months ago, on September 18, at its first emergency meeting on Ebola, a Médecins Sans Frontiers worker named Jackson Niamah addressed the Council from Liberia's capital, Monrovia. He said people were dying outside the gates of the clinic where he worked because there were no beds to treat them. Jackson said, "I, along with my colleagues here, cannot fight Ebola alone. You, the international community, must help us."

It was a reckoning. Up to that point – not nearly enough had been done to curb Ebola's deadly spread. In an unprecedented resolution, this Council recognized that the outbreak constituted a threat to international peace and security, and committed – right alongside the UN General Assembly – to marshaling the resources to stop it.

Two months later, the outbreak continues to grow. When we met in September, more than 2,500 people had died; today, more than 5,000 have died. In September, 5,500 people had been infected; today, more than 15,000 have been infected. The fight is not only ongoing, but it is still tilting in Ebola's favor.

Yet we are beginning to see the impact of the international community's collective response. The results so far prove what we have said all along: we know how to win this fight.

The United Nations set a target of 70 percent of burials being completed in a safe and dignified manner within 60 days, in order to reduce new infections from unsafe burials – and the international community is working toward meeting that goal. As part of my trip to the most affected countries at the end of October, I visited Sierra Leone's capital, where I saw first-hand how the command and control capacity of recently arrived British troops and civilians – in support of their Sierra Leonean counterparts, burial teams, and a robust public information campaign – went from safely burying 30 percent of victims within 24 hours of being reported, to 98 percent. That was all in less than a week.

We set out to improve the accuracy, accessibility, and efficiency of Ebola testing – knowing that prompt and reliable results are critical to slowing the virus' spread. In Bong County, Liberia, I visited a U.S. Navy-run Ebola testing lab which had cut the time Liberians in the area waited for test results from up to five days down to three to five hours. On November 4, only 33 out of 53 Ebola-affected districts in the affected countries had the ability to transport samples to a lab within 24 hours of collecting them, according to the WHO. By November 17, all 53 districts had that capability.

Now, we know this data is imperfect and by no means the full story. Underreporting is a huge issue in the affected region. Not every victim's body is reported, and some unsafe burials take place under the radar. And even if every district can get samples to a lab in 24 hours, that says nothing about how fast that they come back.

But even accepting the limits of the data, there is no question that our collective efforts are saving lives. In the past month, the average number of reported cases per week in Liberia has fallen by a third, thanks in large part to the robust international effort in support of the Liberian government's leadership. At the beginning of October, Sierra Leone's Kenema district had the second highest number of infections in that country, with 429 cases; as of two days ago, not a single new case had been reported in Kenema in all of November, in large part due to the efforts of NGOs, working with local authorities and communities.

Were it not for the dramatic increase in the global response, Ebola would have continued to spread exponentially in the region, infecting and killing many, many thousands more people, and placing our collective security at even greater risk.

But it would be a huge mistake to think that just because we are seeing signs of progress, we are on track to stop this outbreak. It would be reckless to think that just because we hit some of our benchmarks, we have contained the virus' deadly spread.

Last week, 533 new cases were confirmed in Sierra Leone – the highest weekly tally since the outbreak began in that country. In Guinea, people in rural villages only kilometers away from where the outbreak began have still never even heard of the virus. And we are facing a new outbreak, of course, in Mali.

Our response needs to be fluid, nimble, and regional. We need to move with the virus, swiftly adapting to flare ups and plugging gaps when they emerge. As Guinea's Minister of Foreign Affairs so eloquently said when we met in Conakry, "If there's one sick person in Monrovia, then the epidemic is not over in Guinea."

I'd like to highlight five key ingredients for not just bending this exponential curve, but ultimately ending it. First, UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response, UNMEER, must help coordinate and better target the work of multiple UN agencies, Member States, and organizations to maximize the effectiveness of our collective response. This entails identifying the evolving gaps; determining what is needed to fill them; and communicating this information to the governments, organizations, and agencies involved in the effort as quickly as possible. This will require UNMEER to hire quality staff and scale up operations faster, and get teams out of headquarters and into the field, where they can better assess what is needed and immediately plug those gaps at the local level. The Presidential Statement that we as a Council agreed to today reflects that imperative in its request that the Secretary-General "help accelerate efforts to scale-up UNMEER's presence and activities at the district and prefecture level outside of the capital cities."

Second, donors must tailor our contributions to the needs of the moment, rather than what best suits our capitals. For example, as the trajectory of the epidemic changes, we recognize that it's now more effective to support community care centers and build smaller, 10 to 20-bed Ebola Treatment Units across a wider area, than to build a single ETU with 100 beds. We must constantly ask: What is the most effective way to focus the dollar, a Euro, a yen, a mark, or a pound on stopping Ebola today? If the answer is something other than what we are doing, we have to change course, and even turn on a dime.

Third, we need more international healthcare workers to support heroic national health responders. ETUs are useless without doctors and nurses to staff them sustainably. Approximately 1,000 international healthcare workers will be needed on an ongoing basis. Yet in the face of unprecedented demand, groups like MSF and the International Medical Corps have highlighted the challenge of recruiting volunteers. And here I must add, when one looks out two months, it is not at all clear that the supply of international healthcare workers – even the supply that we have today – can be sustained two months from now.

We commend the countries that have sent or pledged foreign medical teams, and the brave men and women who serve in them – from Sweden and Norway to China and the Republic of Korea, the list is long and it's growing longer. As part of the African Union's efforts, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo – which recently helped stop an outbreak of Ebola within its own borders – have promised to make more than a thousand healthcare workers available. More countries need to send teams, and those that have already sent them must maintain a pipeline of trained replacements so that they supply can be replenished in the coming months. The European Union's recent commitment to provide medevac and treatment in Europe for international

healthcare workers infected with Ebola, an effort the United States will support with our own medevac planes, has been crucial to getting more countries to announce commitments.

Governments also must knock down the obstacles that stand in the way of volunteers joining the effort. That means making it easier, and not harder, for volunteers to travel to the affected countries; and treating them like the heroes when they return home, rather than stigmatizing or isolating them.

Fourth, we need to do a better job of protecting healthcare workers and other volunteers from the affected countries, who should be able to serve their countries without fearing for their lives. Last week, Liberia reported that 28 healthcare workers had been infected in the previous 30 days. This week, Sierra Leone lost its sixth and seventh doctors to Ebola; and yesterday, a doctor died of Ebola in Mali. Approximately 330 healthcare workers have died in this outbreak. Healthcare workers need better training and better equipment to prevent more deaths. To help meet this demand, the United States has opened a new center in Monrovia that graduated its first class of 150 Liberian healthcare workers, as well as established a mobile training unit that will move around the country to train Liberians. The U.S. also opened a 25-bed hospital to treat international and Liberian healthcare workers and Ebola responders, the Monrovia Medical Unit, which is staffed currently by the U.S. Public Health Service officials.

While the needs of healthcare workers – who bear the highest risk – will come first, UN peacekeepers serving in Liberia should also have access to the U.S.-run facility in the very unlikely event that they should need it. The peacekeepers in UNMIL – civilians, troops, and police – will be remembered for rising to the occasion and joining this historic effort, rather than pulling out at Liberia's time of greatest need.

Fifth and finally, we need to invest more in preparing neighboring countries to prevent new outbreaks, and to contain those outbreaks swiftly when they occur. That is why the United States is working with international organizations, including the WHO, and officials from more than 40 nations through the Global Health Security Agenda, which is increasing the preparedness of national health systems to respond to infectious disease threats and making global health security an international priority. As the recent events in Mali make clear, if even a single link in the chain of responsibility is broken, the welfare of an entire country – or region – can be put at risk. Ebola punishes us for every mistake.

When people survive Ebola in the affected countries, they are often given an official certificate declaring them “Ebola free.” I met several survivors during my trip to West Africa, and no matter what their individual experience – not one seemed to feel fully free.

A 24-year-old former schoolteacher in Guinea, Fanta Oulen Camara, told me she had lived three lives: her life before Ebola; her life in the hell of her infection; and her life as a survivor. She said the stigma she has suffered since beating the virus had made her current life the hardest. Friends stopped talking to her, and avoided her when they ran into her in public. When, at the end of our meeting, I went to give her a hug goodbye, she demurred and offered a fist bump, afraid, perhaps, that she might infect me. Even she did not seem to fully believe that she was free.

I tell Fanta's story because we can build all the ETUs required; have access to fast, reliable lab results; have plenty of contact teams and healthcare workers – we can check all those boxes and more – and if we do not tackle the fear and the stigma that still reigns in much of the affected region, we will continue to fall behind. We will not shake ourselves free of Ebola.

In Fanta's story, though, there is also reason for hope. Besides being an Ebola survivor, Fanta is now an Ebola caregiver. She works in an MSF clinic, where her very presence is testament to

patients that the virus can be beaten. And for those who do survive, Fanta provides counseling, preparing them for the stigma that, regrettably, still awaits them outside.

We are a long way from being free of Ebola. But if we choose to fight; if we do what we have seen works to beat back this deadly virus; we will find the bravest, most selfless partners in the world by our side. And there is no fight more noble than that.

Thank you.

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9. Biden, Ukrainian President Poroshenko in Kyiv (11-21-2014)

Statements to the press by vice president Joe Biden and Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko

PRESIDENT POROSHENKO: (As interpreted) Dear colleagues, dear friends, first of all, I would like to greet everyone on the Day of Freedom and Dignity that Ukraine marks today for the first time, the first anniversary of our revolution of dignity, and the 10th anniversary of the beginning of the Orange Revolution.

I think that both of these events played a significant role in forming the modern Ukrainian state, not a lesser role than the 24th of October -- August when Ukraine gained its independence. And now that we are fighting a patriotic war, Ukraine requires, as never before, wisdom and consolidation.

I believe it is very symbolic that today we are having the visit of our -- the dear friend of Ukraine, the Vice President of the United States of America, our great friend Joe Biden.

The subject of our negotiations is very broad. It is assistance and coordination by the United States here in Ukraine. In these very difficult times, it is very important. I like the phrase that Mr. Vice President spoke that these six days, the six weeks and six months will probably be of the biggest importance for Ukraine.

And, in fact, within the six days, we have to finish forming the coalition government to find all the compromises, all the factions that participate in the coalition process. And I congratulate everyone that today the factions have signed, in fact, the coalition agreement that paves the way for the quickest possible formation of the government. I completely agree with this estimation. And I absolutely support the necessity of its quickest formation.

Of course, the priority of our negotiations today with the Vice President of the United States was two things. Firstly, the security and defense. And secondly, I would like to say that we agreed that the most agreeable format for the peace process is the format of the Minsk negotiations; a third partite -- three-partite contact group where we have to provide for several key elements of the Minsk peace plan. Those are the immediate cease-fire; creation of a buffer zone; the immediate withdrawal to the separation zone and the withdrawal of armed units and armed machinery; and

immediate beginning of negotiations through local elections under Ukrainian active legislation in the temporarily occupied territory in Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

The peace plan is needed as never before. Ukraine has been adhering to its obligations that it took upon itself when the Minsk protocol and the Minsk memorandum were signed. And we are now reaching common opinion that these are the basic framework that all the sides have to adhere to. And we have to make everything possible to provide for this. We are very thankful that we are continuing our cooperation in the United States in the defense field. And I am convinced that this is all great assistance to us in implementing the position of protecting the independence and security of our nation.

We have discussed our cooperation in the energy sphere and many other points from atomic energy, to crisis response -- especially for the situation when gas supplies will be put under question. And of course, we have made a great contribution that relevant documents were signed in Brussels. And this is what the energy security of Europe and Ukraine are depending on. And we are providing for that.

And the third point is our cooperation towards reforms. We presented today the main directions of reforms. Most of them were included in the coalition agreement, and the big part were reflected in the 2020 strategy.

Today our representatives, I hope they can make a road show to present our reform program in Europe and the whole world. And we have agreed about a very profound assistance that the United States and our European partners will be able to provide financially and otherwise towards the reforms. This is what Ukraine needs the most today.

We have also agreed on the financial assistance in coordination with the International Monetary Fund. And we expect that right after the government has been formed these processes will soon be completed.

And as for the upcoming days and weeks, coordination and cooperation in the fields of security and reforms -- economics and finance and energy are very effective. Thank you very much for this effective cooperation.

I would like to thank our dear friend of Ukraine, Vice President of the United States, Joe Biden.

THE VICE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much. Thank you for welcoming me once again. This is my third trip in the last seven months. You must be getting tired of seeing me as often as you do. And counting your trip to Washington, this is the fourth time we've met in person. And if anyone measures importance by the effort America is putting into this relationship on making sure that the Ukrainian government, it's democratically elected leaders, making sure that you have international support. This is a pretty good place to start.

Mr. President, you've shown tremendous leadership under extraordinarily difficult conditions. And today, on this day of dignity and remembrance, I want to congratulate all Ukrainians on last month's successful parliamentary elections -- which were overwhelmingly endorsed by Ukrainians as well as the entire international community as being fair and free. And I want to congratulate you again, Mr. President.

This is an important moment -- a chance to make good on the promise of 25 years ago when the Iron Curtain came down; the sacrifices that brave Ukrainians who are even now defending against

Russian aggression in the east -- to make good on the efforts of thousands of unsung heroes, civil society activists, ordinary citizens who are trying to preserve a normal life in Donbas, preventing -- preserving their freedom in cities like Mariupol; and of course the promise of those long nights on the Maidan, freezing and facing down sniper fire. You are a remarkable people, the Ukrainian people. You're a brave people. And you've demonstrated that once again to the whole world. And through your courage and your sacrifice, Ukrainians have won -- you've won for yourselves a chance to fundamentally alter the history of your country for the better -- much better.

So I want to urge all Ukrainians to seize this moment, take advantage of the momentum of this day, and keep building the democracy that you so desperately and richly deserve to keep moving your country forward.

Today, the President and I discussed all the work that's ahead. We spoke about the threat to Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity posed by Russian aggression. It's simply unacceptable in the 21st century for countries to attempt to redraw borders by force in Europe, or anywhere for that matter; or to intervene militarily because they don't like a decision their neighbor has made.

In fact, Russian behavior represents a flagrant violation of the bedrock principles of our international system. Which is why the international community has responded with one voice -- amplifying your voice, Mr. President, the voice of all Ukrainians, helping Ukrainians defend their sovereignty and their security and the security of your nation. The international community condemning Russian actions, expanding security assistance to Ukraine, imposing greater and greater costs on Russia for its illegal actions, and refusing to accept the so-called elections held by separatists on November the 2nd.

These weren't democratic elections. They were a Kremlin-orchestrated farce. And let me say as clearly and categorically as I can, America does not and will not recognize Russian occupation and attempted annexation of Crimea. We do not, will not, and insist others do not accept this illegal annexation.

Now, there's a different path for Russia and her proxies, a different path they can take. In fact, it's a path that has already been signed on into paper via the Minsk agreement that the President spoke of; a series of concrete commitments: adhere to the ceasefire, which they are not; restore Ukrainian control over its own borders, with permanent monitoring at the border; remove now illegal military formations, military equipment and militants; and facilitate the release of all hostages. That's what was agreed to by Mr. Putin. None of that has occurred.

If Russia were to fulfill these commitments, and respect Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity, we can begin a rational discussion about sanctions. But that's not what has happened. Instead, we've seen more provocative actions, more blatant disregard for the agreement that was signed not long ago by Russia. And so long as that continues, Russia will face rising costs and greater isolation. It's quite straightforward and simple. There's a way to change all that. Do what you agreed to do, Mr. Putin.

But as President Poroshenko and I have discussed, even if the guns in the east fell silent tomorrow, Ukraine would still face a struggle for its democratic and economic future here in Kyiv. There's a lot of work to do in Kyiv. It begins with forming a new government -- in days, not weeks. Form a new government as quickly as possible. It should be done in days not weeks.

Push forward the reform agenda that has been agreed upon and the Ukrainian people -- an agenda that the Ukrainian people have so resoundingly endorsed: stronger democratic institutions; a more

accountable government; greater integration with Europe; a more prosperous economy; and resolute efforts to root out the cancer of corruption that has hobbled Ukraine for a long time.

It will face no more consequential mission than confronting corruption. President Poroshenko has shown a seriousness of purpose, and the Rada has passed important anti-corruption legislation. Now the real challenge is seeing it through.

Later today, I'll be meeting with members of the parliament and civil society to talk about how we, the United States, can work with you -- can work with them, can work together to maintain the momentum in this all-important fight.

The President and I also discussed Ukraine's economic situation. President Poroshenko and Prime Minister Yatsenyuk have worked very hard to develop a reform program with the IMF. The President and I have met with the IMF, as well, regarding Ukraine. And let me assure you, as Ukraine continues on this course, international partners will step up and help, starting with the United States.

We're working closely with international institutions to make sure Ukraine has the financial resources and support that it needs. And as we do, we are looking for opportunities to improve Ukraine's business climate and increase trade and investment. But it all depends on following through on the reforms, which have begun.

And finally I want to make clear America's commitment to Ukraine is not just about business and governments, it's personal. It's grounded in the friendship between our people. And in the next few months, American Peace Corps volunteers will be returning to Ukraine to continue the work they have done for more for than 20 years.

Building a democracy is difficult. Building a democracy takes patience. Building a democracy requires follow-through on the rhetoric that sounds so good when it's asserted. Hard work, ironclad determination -- these are what is needed. And even then there is no absolute guarantee of success. It's hard work.

What I can guarantee is that, so long as, Mr. President, you and your colleagues keep faith with your commitment to build a more democratic and prosperous life, you will never be alone. The United States will be at your side -- your partner and your friend.

So, Mr. President, may God bless you and your colleagues and the people of Ukraine, on this important day of dignity. And may God bless the United States of America in being able to continue to help you in your efforts.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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